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22 December 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director/Scientific Intelligence

SUBJECT: Russian-English Scientific and
Technical Dictionary

REFERENCE: Your memorandum to me dated
7 December 1953, same subject

1. I have forwarded the papers attached to referenced memorandum to OO and the Foreign Documents Division for review and comment.
2. FDD concludes that an unnecessarily costly effort would be required to correct the work produced by Columbia University, and that even if the materials were corrected they would be far too incomplete to cover the field of metallurgy.
3. On the basis of the advice from FDD that further expenditure on this study would not be profitable, OIC recommends that Project NSF-C5 be abandoned.
4. With respect to your recommendation in paragraph 8 (b), referenced memorandum, we have discussed this matter with Mr. Bagnall of FDD. He is initiating a plan described below which should meet in part the needs for definitions of new Russian words in the scientific and technical fields. The outline of this proposed procedure is as follows:
 - a. FDD analysts will, in scientific and technical fields specified by OSI and the military services, keep lists of new words which are met in the process of exploitation and translation of foreign documents. Periodically the analysts will submit their definitions of these words to Russian linguists who are also com-

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petent scientists for comments and suggestions. Such lists should provide a practical way to close the gap between the standard words already well known and the new words which are slowly but constantly being introduced.

b. As a result of this procedure a "living glossary" in each scientific field could be built up to fulfill the needs expressed by OOI when the Russian-English scientific dictionary project was first proposed.

5. I have suggested to Mr. Bagnall that he get in touch with your Operations Staff to implement this plan. It is probably that OOI will be able to suggest to FDD likely critics of Russian language and scientific competence who could be consulted.

6. In view of the fact that FDD is the logical place both because of its Agency and NSCID-16 responsibilities to move ahead on this problem, I can see no useful purpose served at this time in consulting the NSC, although you and Mr. Bagnall may find reason to feel otherwise later.

[Redacted]
Assistant Director
Intelligence Coordination

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OIC/CEH:pjg (22 December 1953)

Distribution

Orig and 1 - forward

1 - [Redacted]
1 - Mr. Bagnall
1 - [Redacted]
2 - OIC (file) ✓

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